

16. (Original) The image transfer sheet of claim 7 wherein the polymer comprises LDPE, EAA, EVA, MAEA, nylon or mixtures of these polymers or polyamide.

A/ 17-20. (Cancelled)

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed April 16, 2003 has been received and reviewed, along with the cited references. Claims 1-7 have been amended herein, claims 17-20 were previously cancelled, and no new claims have been added. As a result, claims 1-16 are pending in this application. No new subject matter has been added.

§ 112 Rejection

Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to a) recite an underlying support for the image transfer sheet; and b) provide adequate definition for "indicia" in claims 1-6, and c) show how "indicia" can be encapsulated. It is believed that the above-presented amendments to the claims overcome this rejection.

§§ 102 and 103 Rejections

Neither Shimomine nor Kiyoshi describe fibrous substrates. The Shimomine reference describes a film. The Kiyoshi reference describes a green vegetable.

The present invention does not describe the polymer particles described in Sato '092 or Sato '225. Sato '092 does not describe particles such as titanium oxide, luminescent particles or other white particles in the polymer and in the release layer. Sato '092 does not describe the specific polymers claimed.

The GB Mitsuhide patent does not describe a system where a release layer contacts the image transfer substrate. In Mitsuhide, the substrate contacts an adhesive layer. The Mitsuhide

patent does not show a polymer that includes one or more of alumina, titania, zirconia or silica. The Mitsuhide reference does not describe a polymer that acts as an ink receiving layer as well. The Mitsuhide reference does not, therefore, anticipate the amended claims of the present invention.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (612-373-6976) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743

Respectfully submitted,

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Date 15 July 03

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O.Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 15 day of July, 2003.

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